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Mexico

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Proposed Modifications to the Mexican Animal Health Law

2003

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Report Highlights:

On April 15, 2003, Senator Adalberto Madero Quiroga of the PAN (political party currently in power) introduced a bill that reforms the Federal Animal Health Law. If fully approved by the upper and lower house all verification and inspection points for animal health (PVIZ) will be performed at the PVIZ's located at border crossing points on the Mexican side.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1]
[MX]

The bill alleges that since the implementation of NAFTA, Mexico has been flooded with poor quality meat products that have been rejected in their country of origin. According to the amendments made to the Federal Animal Health Law on June 12, 2002, the inspection procedures for meat shipments entering Mexico have to be carried out in facilities located on the Mexican side of the border, where SAGARPA inspectors have to verify that the products comply with the applicable Mexican Official Standards (NOMs). According to Senator Madero, the inspection of imported meat is not always performed at these facilities and the meat enters the country without any sanitary control. Thus, the Animal Health Law must be defined more precisely and the inspection of meat products to be imported has to be done at the inspection points located on the Mexican side of the border or at maritime ports.

The current Animal Health Law specifies that live animals entering Mexico must continue to be verified and inspected in the country of origin and at the entry points of the Mexican territory when required. Should this amendment is approved, it would be mandatory that all imports of live animals have to be inspected at the PVIZ points located on the Mexican side of the border. As far as we know, the Senate Plenary has approved the bill. It will now be referred to the Lower House where it will follow the same legislative process. Once the Lower House Committees and Plenary approve the bill, it goes to the Executive Branch for signature by the President and publication in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Gazette). April 30, 2003 was the last sitting of the ordinary spring session of Congress. Therefore, the Joint Committees of Agriculture & Livestock and Legislative Studies were not able to issue their formal legal advice on the bill in time for a vote by the Senate Plenary during the last sitting on April 30. Once Congress begins its recess from April 30, 2003 to September 1, 2003 when the next legislature is sworn in after the July mid-term elections for the Lower House, it will be up to the next legislature to decide whether to take the bill up in its legislative agenda.

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FAS Mexico Web Site: We are available at <http://www.fas-la.com> or visit headquarter's home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS' worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagar.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.sde.gob.mx These Web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.